

Privacy Policy

It is the policy of the Virginia Department of Social Services that personal information about citizens will be collected only to the extent necessary to provide the service or benefit desired; that only appropriate information will be collected; that citizens shall understand the reason the information is collected and be able to examine their personal records which are maintained by a public body.

Personal Information

The Virginia Department of Social Services does not require you to provide any personal information when using its website. In the event that you request information from us, it may be necessary for you to provide enough information to process your request.

Cookies

The Virginia Department of Social Services does not place a "cookie" on your computer. This means we do not save any information about you or your visit on your computer.

Information from E-mail You Send to Us

If you decide to send us an electronic mail message (e-mail), the message will usually contain your return e-mail address. If you include personally-identifying information in your e-mail because you want us to address issues specific to your situation, we may use that information in responding to your request. Sometimes we forward your e-mail to other state agencies that may be better able to help you or answer your question. We do not distribute lists of e-mail addresses to any parties outside of the Virginia Department of Social Services and its support agencies. Except as required by law, we do not share our e-mail with any other outside organizations.

The Virginia Department of Social Services is pleased to respond to general e-mail inquiries concerning its services, but state and federal laws do not allow us to provide personal, confidential or case-specific information through this forum. Also, e-mail inquiries sent to the Virginia Department of Social Services are not secure or confidential.

Information Collected from Interactive Forms

On some of our webpages we offer interactive forms that let you voluntarily submit personal information (such as your e-mail address, name, and address). This occurs when you are requesting information, ordering publications, or registering for various conferences, workshops, or training sessions offered by the Virginia Department of Social Services. All submitted information is used only for the expressed purposes for which it is intended and is not made available to any third party.

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We may record some non-personal information during your visit. If you do nothing during your visit but browse through the website, read pages, or download information, our website's server may automatically record some general information about your visit.

During your visit, our website's server may record:

- The Internet domain for your Internet service, such as "xcompany.com" or "xcompany.net" if you use a private Internet access account, or "yourschool.edu" if you connect from a college or university domain and IP address (a number automatically assigned to your computer whenever you are surfing the web) from which you access our site.
- The type and version of browser (such as "Netscape version X" or "Internet Explorer version X") that you use and the type of operating system you use (such as Macintosh, Unix, or Windows).
- The date and time you visit our site, and the Web pages that you visit on our site.
- The address of the previous website you were visiting, if clicked through to us from another website.

We use this information for statistical analysis, to help us make our site more useful to visitors. This information is only used internally, does not record information about individuals, and will only be used for internal management purposes.

Links to Other Sites

Our website has links to other websites you may find interesting or relevant. These other sites may send their own cookies to your PC, collect data, or solicit personal information. The privacy policies and procedures described here do not apply to any external links. We encourage you to read the privacy policies of any site you link to from ours, especially if you share any personal information.

Find this content at:

<http://www.dss.state.va.us/geninfo/privacy.html>